

THE AUTUMNAL EQUINOX! The first day of fall, known as the autumnal equinox, begins in the Northern Hemisphere at 10:49 a.m. EDT Sept. 22. The word equinox comes from the Latin words for “equal night.” From here on out, the temperatures begin to drop and the days start to get shorter than the nights.

GAZEBO EXPRESS

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWS AND EVENT SOURCE FOR THE TOWN OF HIGHLAND • SEPTEMBER 2012

HOUSING MARKET REBOUNDS

The latest report on home foreclosures shows Highland among communities in Lake County with the fewest number of bank repossessions.

Redevelopment Director Cecile Petro said there isn't a community in the country that has gotten through the housing crisis unscathed.

With only 62 of the town's 10,335 homes in foreclosure, Petro said Highland is faring much better than many other communities.

“We have been watching these numbers as the national home market regains its equilibrium and the lengthy foreclosure process continues,” she said. “What we have seen over the last several years says a great deal about the stability of the town's housing market and the ability of the local market to rebound based in large part on the strength of the community.”

The good news is bolstered by traditional sales reports that show Highland homes have strong resale value in the market.

“The Highland housing market has really taken off,” said Donna Zisoff, managing broker for Coldwell Banker in Highland. “There is a great deal of interest in Highland, particularly for homes in the \$130,000-180,000 price range.”

Buyers choose Highland for many reasons. Zisoff said it is a great community for families. “The town has good schools and a great many activities for people of all ages.”

LAKE COUNTY FORECLOSURES

Percent of housing units in foreclosure throughout Lake County as of September 2012.

MUNICIPALITY	TOTAL FCS	TOTAL UNITS	PERCENT IN FC
New Chicago	19	866	2.19
Merrillville	231	14,842	1.56
Lake Station	76	5,137	1.48
Hammond	466	32,945	1.41
Winfield	21	1,511	1.39
Hobart	145	12,399	1.17
Lake Dalecarlia	7	603	1.16
Griffith	80	7,070	1.13
Lowell	38	3,620	1.05
Gary	415	39,531	1.05
Cedar Lake	46	4,692	0.98
Unincorporated	128	13,152	0.97
LOFS	26	2,691	0.97
Crown Point	92	10,976	0.84
Dyer	40	6,125	0.65
Whiting	14	2,197	0.64
East Chicago	79	12,958	0.61
Highland	62	10,335	0.60
Schererville	69	12,393	0.56
Munster	45	9,393	0.48
St. John	22	5,201	0.42

VETERANS MEMORIAL RIDE

The 13th Annual Victory for Veterans Memorial Ride, which honors our service men and women, is a procession-style motorcycle ride that begins and ends at Wicker Memorial Park. The event features entertainment, a beer garden, concessions and vendor booths.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **SEPT. 30**

WHERE: Wicker Memorial Park

FEE: \$20 individuals, \$30 couples

REGISTRATION: Begins onsite at 9 a.m. and includes the motorcycle ride, lunch, entertainment and souvenir pin.

INFO: Call (219) 932-2530 to confirm your reservation or request a vendor registration form. A \$100 donation to the “Wicker Park Memorial Fund” should accompany every vendor registration.

HAZARDOUS WASTE DAYS

If you missed Highland's Hazardous Waste Day in July, the Lake County Solid Waste Management District offers alternative drop-off dates in the area. Items to be dropped off between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. include batteries, household cleaners, oils, paints, solvents, poisons, pesticides, anti-freeze, gasoline, mercury thermometers, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs. The dates are:

SEPT. 22 Hobart City Barn
340 S. Shelby

OCT. 6 Lake County Fairgrounds
889 S. Court St., Crown Point

OCT. 13 E.C. Public Service Facility
4444 Railroad Ave.

OCT. 27 Munster Public Works
508 Fisher St.

INFO: Call (219) 769-3820.

WATERWORKS BOARD SEEKS COUNCIL'S APPROVAL FOR WATER RATE HIKE

More than 20 years since the town upped the cost of water, the utility's board of directors have endorsed a rate increase and are asking the council to vote the measure into law.

Waterworks Board President Keith Bruxvoort said over the last two decades, consumer rates have not kept pace with day-to-day expenses. The disparity widened in 2007 when the city of Hammond increased the cost it charges

to Highland by 4 cents per 1,000 gallons of water – an impact of about \$7,000 per month – which was not passed on to consumers.

As a result, the utility's capital fund was depleted forcing the district to borrow money to pay for immediate capital improvements. “We have some major capital projects and we need to have a plan in place so that we do not get ourselves into this situation again,” he said.

“Most residents should plan on their monthly costs doubling – from about \$6.75 to \$13 per month. I know people won't like it but, even with the increase, Highland's rates will remain lower than every other surrounding community, except Hammond.”

PUBLIC HEARING: Residents may comment on the proposed rate increase at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road.

FALL IN HIGHLAND

Highland Main Street's Art and Music Committee will feature fall art showcasing work by individuals from The Arc Northwest Indiana. "Fall in Highland" will be on display throughout the downtown businesses. The committee strives to showcase local art while giving shoppers another reason to spend time in downtown Highland.

WHEN: Throughout **SEPTEMBER**

WHERE: Inside downtown businesses

INFO: Call Cecile at (219) 838-1080.

FALL POP-UP GALLERY

The town's fourth pop-up art gallery is scheduled from 4:30 to 8 p.m. Sept. 20 at 2647 Highway Ave., the site of the former Avon store.

The public is invited to attend the event, which features the work of local juried artists while showcasing vacant retail space. Hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served.



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NEWS TIP? STORY IDEA?

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The Gazebo Express is produced by:

The Idea Factory • (219) 381-0634
www.theideafactory.us.com

Printed by CJ Printing
9445 Indianapolis Blvd.  94
Highland, IN 46322

APEX CONSTRUCTION & REMODELING TAKES ON ITS OWN FACADE PROJECT

After improving a number of facades in and around downtown Highland, Scott Filler says it's time for his building to get a new look.

Filler, the owner of APEX Construction & Remodeling, said he is working with the town's Re-development Commission to get design approval and financial assistance for facade improvements at 2743 and 2747 Highway Ave., the one-time site of Ken-Ridge Drugstore and most recently the home of Apex and Tom's Maytag.

"I'm going to take off the Mansard roof and replace the front of the building that faces Kennedy and Highway avenues with Indiana limestone," Filler said. "I had been thinking and talking about this for the last five years and decided this was the year to do it."

A great deal of thought went into how the building should look to traffic and passers-by. The limestone, which is mined downstate, is a nod to Indiana's natural resources and a neutral palette that won't overwhelm the landscape.

Already, there has been an uptick in interest from business owners looking to rent a portion of the building but Filler said he hasn't made a decision.

"I was already using about 7,000 sq. ft. of the building, which is about 10,000 sq. ft.," he said. "I plan on taking another 1,000 sq. ft. to expand my showroom space and utilize the storefront windows on Kennedy. There is an estimated 20,000 people who pass by there every day. It's the best advertising I could have for my business." 🐦

GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TOWN LEADERS: BILL TIMMER

NEVER A DULL MOMENT FOR THE FIRE CHIEF AND THE HIGHLAND CREW HE OVERSEES

Nearly 20 years after becoming fire chief, Bill Timmer enjoys the job as much today as he did when he started.



TIMMER

He loves the planning for any one of a host of potential disasters as much as he does reacting to what can never be expected. "I have a really low boredom threshold," Timmer said. "I am always looking for a new set of challenges."

During a single day in late August, Timmer and a contingent of firefighters responded to a gas main break at the construction site for the new Indianapolis Boulevard bridge in the morning. That call was followed by an emergency response for a toddler who had gotten her head stuck between staircase spindles and had to be freed using equipment normally reserved for extricating individuals from auto accidents.

That afternoon, Timmer sat down with other department heads to plan for contingencies when the weather service began reporting that the region could be inundated over the Labor Day holiday with the remnants of Hurricane Isaac.

ABOUT THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

THE STAFF: The Highland Fire Department is made up of 44 active volunteers and one paid fire chief.

THE STATIONS: Highland has two stations, Central at 2901 Highway Ave. and South at 2647 45th St.

THE EQUIPMENT AT CENTRAL: The department has three engines, one ladder truck, a heavy rescue vehicle, one Suburban and our ambulance are located at the Central station.

THE EQUIPMENT AT SOUTH: The south station has two engines and another custom-built, 65-foot snorkel ladder truck.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER:

Call Fire Chief Bill Timmer at (219) 923-9876 or email btimmer@highland.in.gov.

It wouldn't be the first time the fire chief's job would be intertwined with a water emergency and the irony isn't lost on Timmer.

"That's how a day can go in town," he said.

"This job is a lot of fun and has a healthy set of challenges and that suits me just fine. I am really lucky. I get to coordinate a bunch of really talented men and women, who are passionate about the town and keeping our residents safe." 🐦

TIME TO GET YOUR FIT ON!

When Lincoln Center opened in February with a new fitness facility and personal trainers, Cyndy Bishop saw it as an opportunity to do something for herself.

Six months later, the 35-year-old mother of four has shed more than 20 pounds and is in the best shape of her adult life.

"I spent money on shakes and diets before and decided I was going to spend my money on what I knew would help — structured physical fitness and better eating," Bishop said. "Personal training was an investment in myself. Lincoln Center is close to home and I scheduled the training sessions at the same time my youngest was in a pre-school class in another part of the building. It wasn't only my body that got healthy. I have severe asthma and my doctor said my asthma is better because I am so much more fit."

It's the kind of story, certified trainer Sean Kingston takes to heart.

Always on the lookout for sedentary individuals who need to ramp up their exercise routine and make dietary changes, Kingston said he is available to individuals as well as to corporate clients who sign up teams of employees.

"Every time I work with an individual or a group and they get the results they want, I feel good," he said. "We have seen some wonderful results in the six short months since we opened and hope to see more and more people coming in dedicated to becoming healthier through exercise and healthy eating. You really can't have one without the other."

INFO: For more information about personal training sessions or to reserve your spot in an upcoming fitness class, please call (219) 838-0114 or visit www.highlandparks.org.

MY PERSONAL TRAINERS ROCK!



MEET SEAN KINGSTON:

Sean Kingston is an American Council on Exercise (ACE) certified personal trainer and lifelong Highland resident. Sean has years of experience in fitness, competing in many local races and triathlons. He has trained athletes, stay-at-home

moms and baby boomers, as well as post-rehab patients. Sean looks forward to working with people of all fitness levels to help them meet their fitness goals.



MEET JODI OLAH:

Jodi has been working in the health and fitness industry for more than 20 years. She is a certified group fitness instructor and has been teaching group fitness classes at the Lincoln Center for more than three years. Jodi is also a certified

personal trainer through the American Sports and Fitness Association. She is a Highland resident and also has a background teaching physiology and kinesiology. Jodi has high energy and will help you get the results you seek.



WEIGHT LOSS CHALLENGE

Lose the weight and learn how to keep it off! A coach will be assigned to all participants to work on stumbling blocks, discuss nutrition and find a fitness routine that works for you. The biggest loser wins four 30-minute personal training sessions.

WHEN: Weigh-in 6 p.m. Mondays; time slot for 30-minute express workout will depend on the trainer assigned.

SESSION 1: SEPT. 10 through OCT. 8

SESSION 2: OCT. 15 through NOV. 12

SESSION 3: NOV. 19 through DEC. 17.

FEE: \$90/\$95 per session (\$240 value)

CORPORATE FIT CHALLENGE

The Corporate Fit Challenge is a nationally-recognized wellness program that creates healthier workplaces by inspiring changes in diet and exercise.

WHEN: Determined by company

FEE: \$150 per person for 30-minute sessions twice weekly for six weeks. Fee includes 18 visits for fitness center or selected group fitness classes.

MEN'S FIT CAMP

No aerobics in this class! Body weight exercises, dumbbells and plyometrics. Hard workouts for the hardcore guy.

WHEN: Determined by participant

FEE: \$50 per person for 45-minute sessions twice weekly for four weeks.

MOM'S POWER HOUR

Overall toning with good music, a lot of fun and stress relief. Ideal for moms after dropping the kids off at school!

WHEN: 9 to 10 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Dates are still open.

FEE: \$75/\$80 per session

10-DAY FAT-BLAST BOOT CAMP

Guaranteed results! Workouts have fat-blasting intervals and core-slimming moves. Measurements, e-mail coaching, fitness homework and high fives!

WHEN: 6:10 to 6:40 p.m. all days except 8:30 to 9 a.m. Saturdays. Sept. 4-15. Dates are still open.

FEE: \$50 members /\$70 nonmembers

MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

Celebrate Mexican Independence Day with Visions of Santana, a group that covers the music of Carlos Santana like no other. Cash bar and concessions are available. You must be at least 21 years of age with valid ID to attend.

WHEN: 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. **SEPT. 13**

DOORS OPEN: 7 p.m.

WHERE: Wicker Park Social Center

ADMISSION: \$5 - rain or shine!

INFO: Call (219) 932-2530, extension 327 or visit www.wickermemorialpark.com.

SPACE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

This program promotes critical thinking through active reading, effective writing and inquisitive learning. Join us for the challenges, hands-on experiments and missions to explore and solve.

WHEN: 5 to 6 p.m. Tuesdays/Thursdays

WHERE: Lincoln Center

SESSION 1: **SEPT. 4-27**

SESSION 2: **OCT. 2-25**

SESSION 3: **NOV. 1-29**

FEE: \$35/\$38 materials included

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

BIDDY BOWLING

Biddy Bowling is a noninstructional five-week program for boys and girls ages 4 to 11. Join us for a game of bumper bowling each week!

WHEN: 11:30 a.m. **OCT. 6 - NOV. 3**

WHERE: Plaza Lanes, 8101 Kennedy Ave.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **OCT. 4**

FEE: \$35 resident/\$38 nonresidents

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

FALL ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

The best in arts and crafts will be showcased at this annual fall show. The two-day event features jewelry, ceramics, fiber arts, soy candles, handbags, home decor and more.

WHEN: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. **OCT. 6** and

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **OCT. 7.**

WHERE: Lincoln Center

VENDOR FEES: \$53.50 for 10' X 10' space; \$85.60 for wall space.

INFO: Visit www.highlandparks.org or call (219) 838-0114.

COMMUNITY THEATER

The Main Street Art and Music Committee is partnering with the Highland Theatre Company to present three performances of: "It Was a Dark and Stormy Night" by Tim Kelly.

WHEN: 7 p.m. **OCT. 5-6;** 2 p.m. **OCT. 7**

WHERE: Highland High School's Monbeck Auditorium

TICKETS: \$8 adults; \$6 students and seniors.

Tickets available at the door.

INFO: Call Cecile Petro at (219) 838-1080.

Highland's inaugural ... OKTOBERFEST

The Highland Community Foundation's first Oktoberfest will feature an auction, live entertainment, craft beers, wines and all of the fixings for a true Munich-style feast. Proceeds will help fund a community benefit endowment and a suburban green space park at the southeast corner of 5th Street and 45th Avenue.

OCTOBER 4

*Indiana Welcome Center
Exhibit Hall*

THE FOOD ...

Sample traditional German and Bavarian fare including Wiener Schnitzel, German potato salad, sauerkraut, sweet and sour red cabbage, Sauerbraten, Spaetzel, Bratwurst, Knockwurst, hot pretzels with mustard and delicious apple strudel.

THE DRINKS ...

Craft beer and wine will round out the evening.

THE MUSIC ...

Join Frank K. Duo for an evening of traditional German music and songs.

THE INFO ...

Tickets are \$85 per person. To purchase tickets or for more information, contact Rich at (312) 550-4478 or runderkofler76@comcast.net or Cecile at (219) 972-7598 or CPetro@highland.in.gov.



HIGHLAND
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

Celebrating Highland's Legacy